

I call on you to hold an official public hearing in my state.

Before the disastrous 2003 decision to weaken media ownership rules (which a federal court has now overturned), you held only one official public hearing. Further, FCC officials met behind closed doors 71 times with major broadcasters – but only five times with public interest groups. And to justify your actions, you used deceptive, industry-sponsored research data.

The will of Big Media had been heeded at the expense of American citizens and democracy itself. This has to end. Before you rewrite the ownership rules, I demand an official public FCC hearing in my state, impartial and verifiable research, and transparent debates.

It is time to put the needs of democracy – a diverse, skeptical, independent and competitive media system – ahead of profit-hungry media giants.

I absolutely oppose media consolidation as it fortells the death of democracy. I believe that our press is no longer the fourth estate rather is quite analagous to the Soviet press of 20 years ago. I believe the major broadcasters should be independent companies and that they should not allowed to be owned and controlled by large global companies whose agendas are often not in the interest of real America. The fact that war profiteers own large sections of our media is a disgrace.